



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 15, 2006
Week Ending: May 14, 2006
CWP WA-CW2006

Field Activities Accelerated by Dry, Warm Days and Cool Nights

Field Crops

Farmers took advantage of nearly ideal weather conditions for field preparation, seeding and cultivation. Spring wheat conditions improved, while winter wheat remained virtually unchanged from last week. Many of the spring planted crops were in need of rain for crop development. Christmas tree producers monitored plantations for diseases and pest infestations. Potato and corn growers continued planting fields.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% poor, 11% fair, 83% good, and 3% excellent. Livestock producers continued planting corn for silage, while cattle were turned out on spring pastures. Oyster growers continued harvesting oysters for half shell and shucked markets.

Fruit and Vegetables

Strawberry, blueberry and raspberry plants bloomed while apple trees in bloom tapered off. Orchards were forced to use frost protection mechanisms during the week to combat cool nights.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	15	84	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	18	75	5
Subsoil	3	15	81	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	25	69	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	98	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	7	91	0
Hay & Roughage	24	13	59	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	96	90	100	98
Spring Wheat Emerged	67	55	82	85
Winter Wheat Headed	16	10	27	11
Barley Planted	90	88	95	97
Barley Emerged	55	52	68	81
Potatoes Planted	93	88	96	99
Potatoes Emerged	60	46	55	56
Corn Planted	80	60	69	74
Corn Emerged	45	32	32	25
Dry Edible Beans Planted	79	59	59	46
Proc. Green Peas Planted	98	90	98	88
Dry Peas Planted	90	64	92	90
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	15	9	16	12

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	4	22	60	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	79	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	40	57	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	25	64	11
Barley Dryland	0	0	40	58	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	48	52	0
Potatoes	0	3	73	24	0
Corn	0	23	46	31	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	75	25	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Farmers reported the weather has been slow to warm up this year in Chimacum Valley. Periodic rains were good for pastures, but higher temperatures were needed for the grass to grow. The Sequim area harvested the second cutting of grass hay and finished planting corn.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers worked at a frantic pace under ideal conditions to prepare fields for seeding. The canneries planted a week later than normal. Meanwhile, silage corn planted a week ago has already germinated. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Douglas fir plantations for needle midge. Most growers plan to spray for both Swiss needle cast and Cooley spruce gall adelgids. A week with no rain was a bonanza to truck gardeners who were able to begin field cultivation in preparation for planting vegetables. Livestock producers continued planting silage corn and harvesting forage crops. Home gardeners were planting warm season vegetable crops including corn, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

Mason: Warm daytime temperatures and low nighttime temperatures (freezing in some areas) were keeping producers on their toes. Mother's Day plant sales were abundant, and greenhouse operations were pumping out vegetable starts, hanging baskets, and bedding plants as fast as people could buy them. The last of the producers on wetter soils and in flood plain areas finished with tilling, although some were waiting to plant summer crops for fear of more freezing temperatures. Livestock were enjoying great spring pastures, and some haying activity was spotted in the county.

Mason (2nd Report): Pastures were firm after a dry week. The weather was dry and hot, and producers started to irrigate gardens and new plants. The soil has dried out quickly this year, and rain is needed. Corn was being planted for the Farmer's Market, and tomato plants may be set out if the mild weather continues.

Pacific: Warmer and drier spring conditions allowed producers to continue field activities. Early season insect and weed control efforts for cranberries were nearly complete. Bog and irrigation system repair and maintenance activities continued. Christmas tree growers and small fruit producers completed weed control efforts, and dairy producers continued green chop operations with good weather conditions. Oyster seeding in Willapa Bay was in full swing, and growers harvested oysters for both the half shell and shucked markets.

Pierce/S. King: The weather was clear and unseasonably warm. Crop growers should be taking precautions for avoiding plant diseases due to the warm, humid conditions.

Pierce/S. King (2nd Report): Crop conditions were very good. Fields were dried out, and producers were able to work them. There were no unusual situations to report and no crop damage reported.

Skagit: The first cutting of grass was underway except in those areas heavily de-vegetated by migratory birds. Producers harvested all available grass leaving dairies without the first and second grass crop. This will be a huge financial loss in a year with milk prices plummeting again. Seed crops were still being planted, while other seed crops were emerging. Spinach seed was past the flowering stage, and berries were in bloom.

Snohomish/N. King: It was an excellent week for farming. Temperatures hit 80 degrees in some areas. Pasture growth was excellent. Haylage was being harvested. Corn, potatoes, and seed crops were planted. Strawberry and blueberry bloom continued. Some raspberries began to blossom. Apple bloom was mostly over. Nurseries were going full speed for Mother's Day weekend.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The temperatures were running in the high 50's to the lower 60's for most of the week. There was a mixture of sun and rain. Farmers were able to work in the fields and plant crops.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of ideal conditions for field cultivation and planting. Soils were beginning to show a lack of moisture due to an entire week with no rain. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticide for the control of white pine bark weevil on Norway spruce, Cooley spruce gall adelgids on Douglas fir and balsam twig aphids on Fraser fir. The warm temperatures resulted in a rapid flush on Douglas fir, Grand fir, and Norway spruce. Livestock producers continued harvesting forage crops with most of it being made into haylage. Blueberry growers continued applying fungicides. Home gardeners were amazed with the rapid germination of garden vegetables due to the warm soil temperatures.

Thurston (2nd Report): Salmon berry plants were very heavily laden with berries which was extraordinary. It should be a great berry and fruit year for western Washington. Pinot noir wine grapes were also setting heavily. It was too early to tell about the apples.

Central

Benton: Frost protection was active during the week. Rain showers were received.

Douglas/Chelan: Cold temperatures continued. Frost protection measures in orchards continued. Some producers reported tree deaths due to the very cold temperatures experienced in February. Young fruit trees split. Cattle were turned out onto spring pastures. Grazing conditions were fair. Older varieties of apple trees continued to be removed by some producers. In the Chelan area, these orchards were being developed for housing. Apple and pear trees were completing their bloom. Fruit producers were concerned about labor shortages. Failed winter wheat has been replanted. All spring wheat and barley acreage has been reseeded.

Franklin: The weather was beginning to warm up.

Franklin (2nd Report): Growing conditions were very good throughout the week. Temperatures were normal to above normal. Mild breezes occurred for several days with lighter winds toward the end of the week. No precipitation was received. Hay producers were cutting, turning, and baling feverishly at the south end of the county, while the north half just barely started by the end of the week. Hay production weather was extremely favorable for both tonnage and quality. Asparagus crews were very busy with harvest due to the favorable climate and working conditions. The potato crop, grass seed, and wheat fields all looked good. Cheatgrass on the range was turning fast with the warm

weather. The dry land wheat crop looked pretty good, while the minimal fall and CRP grass also looked good. Weed competition was heavy in both wheat and new CRP fields because of the wet winter and spring. Producers will need to focus on broadleaf control.

Grant: Some frost damage was reported to the corn crop.

Kittitas: Warm but windy weather has settled into the area. Crop development was excellent. Rangeland moisture has produced good grass.

Klickitat: Unseasonably cold, windy, and dry weather held some crop development stagnant, especially alfalfa. Unseasonably hot weather is expected this week, but low soil moisture will limit plant growth.

Okanogan/Ferry: The counties experienced some cold nights. Frost protection in orchards continued. All cattle were turned out to spring pastures. Parts of the county received traces of precipitation. Temperatures over the weekend got into the high 70's. Some fruit producers were concerned about labor shortages. All failed winter wheat has been replaced.

Yakima: The average temperature varied from seven degrees below normal to four degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Unseasonably hot conditions without measurable precipitation were not favorable for cereal grain production.

Asotin/Garfield: Warm, dry weather allowed most farmers to complete spring planting and spraying. Growing conditions were good for crops and rangeland. Some of the lower elevation areas could use some additional rain.

Ferry: The weather continued to be cool but began warming up during the weekend. The forecast was for substantial warming throughout the week which should boost range grass growth.

Lincoln: Crops were in need of rain!

Lincoln (2nd Report): Some spots in winter wheat fields showed a lack of fertilizer caused by leaching due to earlier rains. Good growing weather for crops was experienced during the week, although parts of the county could use a shower.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 76 degrees and the low was 20 degrees. Traces of precipitation were received. Days were warming up with the nights slowly doing the same. Livestock have lost their winter coats and were on pastures. Hogs have farrowed. Lambs were doing well. Egg production increased with the warm weather. The ground was warming which allowed seeds to germinate.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of warm weather allowed fieldwork to get done. Windy conditions made it difficult to

do spraying. Small grains and legumes were planted during the week. The majority of the growers were finishing up planting. A few nights of frost did not help the pastures and hay crop. Alfalfa was not growing very fast. Apple trees were blooming and looking good.

Stevens: Cool temperatures during the day and nighttime temperatures below freezing slowed hay and pasture growth. Fields finally dried out enough for farmers to perform tillage and seeding operations. Most cattle were turned out on pastures.

Stevens (2nd Report): On Sunday the weather suddenly warmed up. Temperatures were 32 degrees in the morning and reached 85 degrees by afternoon!

Walla Walla: Temperatures warmed up. A little precipitation was received. Hay started to go down. Pastures were growing with livestock out. Seeding finished up. Some spraying was getting done when the wind wasn't blowing.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Crops looked good. Some hay was being cut. Pasture and rangeland were in good condition, but a nice shower would be welcomed.

Whitman: Cool overnight temperatures along with warm days were experienced throughout the week. Rainfall was needed to help with crop development. Much of the spring seeded crops were now in, but rainfall is needed. Some reseeded was done in the western areas of the county due to the crusting that was caused by earlier rains.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 15, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	34	68	49	-4	3	-18	0	0	0.00	-0.52	0	29.53	-0.94	97	140
Everett	39	65	50	-4	7	-18	0	0	0.40	-0.16	3	28.03	-2.45	92	142
Hoquiam	36	73	50	-3	10	-12	0	0	0.11	-0.65	1	65.73	4.30	107	162
Kelso	34	82	53	-1	28	0	1	1	0.02	-0.54	1	37.46	-3.18	92	134
Olympia	30	75	51	-2	14	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.49	0	48.37	2.56	106	136
Sea-Tac	41	72	54	-1	29	-1	0	0	0.01	-0.41	1	33.03	0.10	100	132
Shelton	30	77	51	-5	12	-22	0	0	0.01	-0.55	1	65.55	5.78	110	142
Tacoma	34	72	52	-3	18	-14	0	0	0.01	-0.45	1	36.06	0.77	102	126
Vancouver	34	82	55	2	37	8	2	2	0.38	-0.18	1	38.42	2.03	106	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	31	83	53	-2	24	-6	1	1	0.00	-0.08	0	9.98	2.57	135	72
Stampede Pass	30	71	45	6	8	8	0	0	0.15	-0.66	2	63.16	-9.52	87	146
Wenatchee	38	80	56	-2	41	-12	4	-3	0.00	-0.10	0	5.37	-1.41	79	50
Yakima AP	29	82	52	-4	20	-21	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	8.15	1.58	124	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	78	50	-3	14	-11	0	0	0.13	-0.29	2	15.64	-0.63	96	86
Deer Park	23	78	49	-5	10	-15	0	0	0.03	-0.35	2	23.21	8.40	157	107
Spokane AP	29	79	52	-1	22	-2	1	1	0.00	-0.28	0	15.39	2.40	118	97
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	83	56	-4	43	-19	6	-2	0.00	-0.10	0	8.25	2.41	141	63
Moses Lake	28	82	53	-6	29	-33	1	-7	0.00	-0.10	0	9.81	3.97	168	75
Quincy	33	78	53	-5	25	-27	1	-6	0.00	-0.14	0	9.68	3.29	151	75
Ritzville	28	72	48	-6	8	-18	0	0	0.02	-0.19	1	12.77	3.43	137	84
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	33	81	57	-6	47	-36	10	-10	0.00	-0.11	0	4.59	-0.86	84	40
Pasco	31	84	55	-6	37	-34	3	-11	0.00	-0.14	0	7.64	1.41	123	64
Pullman	31	81	52	2	23	5	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	9.90	-7.26	58	89
Whitman Miss.	29	75	52	-5	26	-20	1	-1	0.03	-0.25	1	14.16	2.92	126	101
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	28	68	49	-6	13	-18	0	0	0.00	-0.45	0	8.58	-11.99	42	73
Lewiston ID	38	77	56	-2	44	-7	6	0	0.16	-0.12	1	8.59	-0.39	96	74

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days =

Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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